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HMF

Deputy Chief, Economic Research Area

3 January 1958

Chief, Materials Division

Comments on Suggestion No. 665 and Suggestion No. 58-244.

Suggestion No. 665

1. Suggestion No. 665 did not contribute in any way to the recent reorganization which produced M/FP. Indeed, there was nothing unique or original in Suggestion No. 665. The possibility and/or desirability of combining the various units in ORR responsible for research on fuels and power was a matter of open discussion long before this suggestion was made. [redacted] who was from 25X1A9a 1953 to 1955 Chief M/P, distinctly remembers discussing this subject on numerous occasions with the then chiefs of M/S and M/EP, Chief D/M, and other individuals. [redacted] did not seriously discuss the inclusion of nuclear energy research, partly because it was his impression that ORR's responsibility in this field was then minor and not well defined. 25X1A9a

2. The discussions on this subject were generally concerned with the consolidation of M/P, M/S and M/EP as a new branch within the Materials Division and not as a separate division. While it was agreed that such a grouping would be correct in principle, it was the consensus that a merger was not at that time either timely or administratively convenient, but something to be kept in mind for future consideration.

3. The argument, contained in suggestion No. 665, that M/P, M/S and M/EP had little affinity with other Branches in the Division is unconvincing, and imposes an unrealistic standard for homogeneity. Acceptance of this argument would in principle lead to an almost impossible administrative hodge-podge of small research groups.

Suggestion No. 58-244

1. This suggestion states that "it was recently decided to change the name of this new unit from 'Energy Branch' (M/E) to 'Fuels and Power' (M/FP) in order to avoid possible confusion" This statement is not factually correct, since the new branch was never called the Energy Branch and it was not "originally intended" to call it by this name. The choice of a name was wide open, and

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if the name "Energy Branch" had been clearly superior to others it would have been accepted and a device such as that suggested would have been used to prevent confusion with I/ME. The name Energy Branch was not, however, considered to be clearly superior; the name Fuel and Power Branch was selected because we felt that, all things considered, it was the most accurate, the most descriptive, and therefore the best available.

2. The following definitions, taken from Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Fifth Edition, speak for themselves on the question of the proper title for the new branch, bearing in mind the functions of its components.

ENERGY (in full) 1. Strength of expression, force of utterance. 2. a. internal or inherent power; capacity of acting. b. pl. such powers, especially when in exercise; activities. 3. Power efficiently and forceably exerted. 4. Physics. Capacity for performing work. SYN. Strength, vigor, force, see power. ANT. inertia, apathy.

FUEL (extracted) 1. Any matter used to produce heat or power by combustion.

POWER (extracted) b. Exerted energy; force; might; as, rent by lightning's power. 6. Force or energy applied or applicable to work; specifically, mechanical or electrical force or energy.

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Distribution:

Orig. and 1 - DCh/E
2 - D/M

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